

REMARKS

In response to the Advisory Action of August 13, 2003, Applicants have amended the claims, which when considered with the following remarks, is deemed to place the present application in condition for allowance. Amendments and/or cancellation of claims have been made in the interest of expediting prosecution of this case. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the same or similar subject matter in this or another application.

Entry of this Amendment and favorable reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14, 16-27 and 29 are now pending in this application.

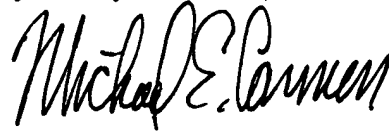
Initially, it is noted that the Examiner indicated in the Advisory Action, final Office Action and in the Office Action dated November 14, 2002 that original Claims 15, 16, 28 and 29 contain allowable subject matter over the prior art of record. By this Amendment, Claims 1 and 17 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable Claims 15 and 28, respectively. Thus, immediate allowance of amended Claims 1-14, 16-27 and 29 is warranted and such is respectfully requested. Accordingly, entry and consideration of the present Amendment is deemed appropriate as it places the application in condition for immediate allowance.

The amendments to independent Claims 1 and 17 to incorporate the limitations of allowable Claims 15 and 28, respectively, renders the prior art rejection moot.

Also, the abandonment of co-pending Application No. 09/708,237 renders the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting provisional rejection moot.

For the foregoing reasons, amended Claims 1-14, 16-27 and 29 as presented herein are believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. Such early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael E. Carmen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "M".

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